

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 038032  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

66011

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:JEBURGESS:ML  
APPROVED BY PM/ISO-GTCHURCHILL  
S/S-O-R.GAMBLE

-----191447 112458 /41

R 182139Z FEB 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUQMKM/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 1877

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

SECDEF

CINCEUR

CINCPAC

JCS

CNO

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCPACFLT

COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T STATE 038032

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT

FOLLOWING REPEAT VICTORIA 0058 ACTION SECSTATE  
INFO NAIROBI 10 FEB 77

QUOTE

S E C R E T VICTORIA 058

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MORG, SE  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 038032

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST FORCE

REF: STATE 030235

1. IT IS MY VIEW THAT SEYCHELLES GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED,  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER INDIAN OCEAN/GULF STATES, TO GRANT  
CLEARANCE FOR TWO WEEK VISITS BY FLAGSHIP ON TWICE A YEAR BASIS

(PARA 8 REFTEL). ALTHOUGH SEYCHELLES IS OFFICIALLY NON-ALIGNED, PRESIDENT MANCHAM IS INCREASINGLY CONCERNED WITH SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN AND ITS POLITICAL INFLUENCE WITH SOME LITTORAL STATES. HE REGARDS US-UK-FRENCH NAVAL UNITS AS IMPORTANT COUNTERWEIGHT TO SOVIETS AND HAS BEEN UNIFORMLY RECEPTIVE TO WESTERN REQUESTS FOR PORT VISITS. SINCE MIDEASTFORCE CONSTITUTES ONLY PERMANENT U.S. NAVAL FORCE IN AREA, BELIEVE MANCHAM WOULD CONSIDER IT IN SEYCHELLES' INTEREST, IF NECESSARY, TO GIVE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT IN THE FORM OF PROPOSED FLAG SHIP VISITS IN ORDER TO RETAIN PRESENCE.

2. WHILE GOS WOULD BE PREPARED TO SHARE IN SUPPORT OF REGIONAL MIDEASTFOR PRESENCE, PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BY BAHRAINIS IDENTIFYING SEYCHELLES AS ONE OF NEW SUPPORT FACILITIES FOR FLAGSHIP COULD BE SEEN AS AN UNACCEPTABLE INFRINGEMENT ON STILL EMBRYONIC NON-ALIGNED IMAGE. PERCEIVED POLITICAL COST TO SEYCHELLES ALSO CONTINGENT ON PARTICIPATION OF OTHER STATES IN REGION. OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY GOS COMMITMENT FOR INCREASED MIDDLE EAST FORCE SUPPORT.

3. PORT VICTORIA HAS LIMITED SPACE ALONGSIDE SINGLE PIER. ONLY ONE LARGE OR TWO SMALL CARGO VESSELS CAN BE ACCOMMODATED AT SAME TIME. IN VIEW OF PORT FACILITIES AND INCREASED MERSHIP TRAFFIC, FLAGSHIP COULD NOT ANTICIPATE BEING ALONGSIDE PIER FOR MORE THAN HALF OF ANY VISIT.

MATTSON.

UNQUOTE HARTMAN.

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MILITARY VISITS, NAVAL SHIPS  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009